THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The Central Government employees are entitled for medical examination and diagnosis at dispensaries/Polyclinics and hospital.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The facility of domicillary visit in case of serious illness and ailments is provided on demand from the beneficiary for diagnosis and treatment.

Noise Pollution in Delhi

4439. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item "Noise hit Delhi in a big way" appearing in the Indian Express of July 19, 1991; and

(b) if so, the main points made therein and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main points made in the news item "Noise hit Delhi in a big way", include:

(i) The noise menace in Delhi due to loud-speakers, automobiles, aircraft operations, etc., is on the increase.

(ii) Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi have noise levels that are much more than the acceptable safe threshold limit of 45 dB(A).

(iii) According to the survey conducted by Prof. K. K. Pujara of the Mechanical Engineering Department of IIT, Delhi, during September 1990, the day time noise levels at Shreshtha Vihar, Anand Vihar, Barakhamba Road—Connaught Place junction and outside New Delhi Railway Station were 55-78 dB(A), 60-80 dB(A), 88 dB(A) and 77-80 dB(A) respectively.

(iv) The various health effects of noise include stress, gastro-intestinal, endocrinal and respiratory damages, visual distortions, colour blindness, changes in skin resistance, anxiety, headache, tension fatigue, insomnia, loss of concentration and efficiency etc.

The action taken by Government include:

(1) Noise has been included as a subject of pollution under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1987 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(2) Ambient air quality standards in respect of noise for different areas have been prescribed. Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment to be adopted at the manufacturing stage. Noise limits for automobiles have to be met by 1992, while those for appliances and equipment are to be met by 1993.

(3) Codes of practice for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles, have been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board. These include: public address system, air-craft operation and bursting of crackers.

(4) Other measures to control noise include-declaration of silence zones, regulating the use of loud-speakers, restrictions and use of loud horns in vehicles, regulating the movement of heavy vehicles and segregating industries from residential areas.